

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1. (Currently amended) An alkaline battery comprising: a negative electrode including a negative electrode mixture that contains a zinc alloy as an active material, said zinc alloy containing at least aluminum;

an alkaline electrolyte; and

a positive electrode, wherein said alkaline electrolyte comprises an aqueous KOH solution and LiOH and an aluminum compound that are dissolved in said aqueous KOH solution, wherein a portion of the alkaline electrolyte is contained in the negative electrode mixture, and

wherein the amounts of the LiOH and the aluminum compound contained in the portion of the alkaline electrolyte in said negative electrode mixture are 0.1 to 2 wt % and 0.001 to 0.2 wt % of the negative electrode mixture, respectively.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The alkaline battery in accordance with claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the weight ratio of the whole alkaline electrolyte to the zinc alloy of the negative electrode is 0.1 to 2.

5. (New) The alkaline battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein the positive electrode comprises manganese dioxide as a positive electrode active material.

6. (New) The alkaline battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein the positive electrode is an air electrode.